

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2003, claims 1-3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's own admitted prior art and further in view of Svilans. Claims 9, 10, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's own admitted prior art and further in view of Svilans and Liu et al.. Claims 4-7 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's own admitted prior art and further in view of Svilans as applied to claims 1 and 9, and further in view of Liu et al.. These rejections are traversed and overcome as follows.

The prior art submitted by applicant discloses a DWDM system. The DWDM system has an input and output optical fibers, a biporose pigtail, a graded index lens and a filter. The filter of the DWDM system joins with an end of the graded index lens. However, the end of the graded index lens is perpendicular to an optical axis of the graded index lens, and the filter is perpendicular to the optical axis of the graded index lens. Svilans discloses a laser source which has a laser chip, a collimating lens, and a wavelength selective element. The wavelength selective element is oriented at an angle relative to an optical axis of the collimating lens.

Claims 1-3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of the prior art submitted by applicant and Svilans. However, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to combine them.

argument (1) Firstly, the prior art submitted by applicant is a DWDM system. Svilans discloses a laser source. Both the prior art submitted by applicant and Svilans are used in optical communication systems. However, the laser source is used in a transmitter, and the DWDM system is used between a transmitter and a receiver. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to use technology

from a laser source in a DWDM system.

(7) Secondly, in the prior art submitted by applicant, the filter of the DWDM system joins with an end of the graded index lens. The end of the graded index lens is perpendicular to an optical axis of the graded index lens, and the filter is perpendicular to the optical axis of the graded index lens. The laser source of Svilans has a filter and a collimating lens. The filter and the collimating lens are not joined together, and a distance is defined therebetween. However, the DWDM system of the present applicant has the filter joined at an end of the graded index lens. The end of the graded index lens is oriented at an acute angle relative to an optical axis of the graded index lens. The filter is parallel to the end of the graded index lens, and is oriented at a same angle relative to the optical axis of the graded index lens. Using a structure wherein the filter is oriented at an acute angle relative to the optical axis ensures that the DWDM system can selectively transmit light having a particular wavelength. The filter joins with the end of the graded index lens to ensure that the light reflected by the filter is precisely received by the return optical fiber. It would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the prior art submitted by applicant with Svilans to solve the problem solved by the present invention. It is because, Svilans is only concerned about a "single" fiber (50) and thus the filter (64) may be freely tilted about more than one axes while still being able to comply with such a single fiber (50). Oppositely, the instant invention is concerned about "dual" fibers, and thus the filter should be strictly limited to rotate about a specific axis to comply with such two fibers, which Svilans never disclosed and was unable to suggest or try to resolve.

(8) Thirdly, the input optical fiber and the return optical fiber of the DWDM system of the present applicant are disposed on two sides of a center axis of the pigtail. The two holes are separated by different distances from the center axis of the pigtail. This structure also can achieve the purpose of the present

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applicant even if the end of the graded index lens facing the filter is perpendicular to the center axis of the graded index lens. Neither the prior art submitted by applicant nor Svilans discloses such a structure.

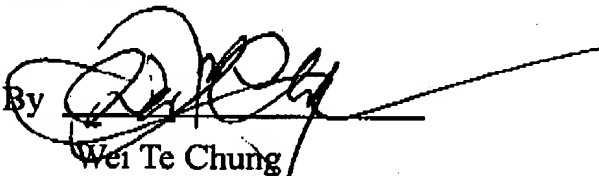
In conclusion, applicant asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 1-3 and 8 is improper, and is, in any event, now overcome, and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Liu et al. fail to disclose a DWDM system with a filter which joins with an end of a graded index lens and is parallel to said end. Also, Liu et al. fails to disclose a DWDM system having an input optical fiber and a return optical fiber located in two holes of a pigtail, said holes being separated by different distance from a center axis of the pigtail. Therefore, applicant asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 4-7 and 9-16 is improper, and is, in any event, now overcome, and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of all the foregoing arguments, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 and 23-28 are in condition for allowance, and requests that the application be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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